this purpose by Telecom District Manager (TDM) of Mainpuri district;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said existing TDM refrain from meeting the subscribers and redress their grievances by staying away from the Headquarters; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (c) above.

Increase in PCO Commission

1947. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Call Office (PCO) owners are demanding increase in their commission on STD charges and special allowance on local calls; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received from the PCO franchisees and their Association, etc., *inter-alia*, to increase the rate of commission and service charge on local calls. Presently, there is no proposal to increase the existing rate of commission or service charge.

Rectification and Maintenance of Telephones

†1948. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom employees are adopting negligent attitude in rectification and maintenance of telephones;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take any action against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) specific complaints received against any individuals are dealt with according to the laid down procedure.

Starvation death Vis-A-Vis Overflowing Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

1949. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the problem of peoples' starvation in many parts of the country, despite the FCI godowns overflowing with foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of people died for want to food, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to curb this magnitude of problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) there have been no report of starvation deaths from any State Govenment/UT administration.

The steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of foodgrains for the poor have been mentioned in the annexed Statement.